

**City of New Castle Delaware
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street, New Castle
Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 7 p.m.**

Call to order: 7:02 pm

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Cochran
Council President Ratchford
Councilperson Petty
Councilperson Vannucci

Also present:

Donald Reese, Mayor
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor
Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official & Fire Marshall
Chief Tjaden, Department of Public Safety
William Barthel, City Administrator

Approval of Minutes by Date: special meeting of April 16 and regular meeting on May 13

Councilperson Cochran motioned and Councilperson Vannucci seconded approval of the minutes without changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlin reported on the balances of the city's accounts as of May 31, 2014. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$1,866,332.09.

Councilperson Vannucci motioned to accept the report and Councilperson Petty seconded. The council unanimously accepted the report.

Approval of Staff Reports

Chief Tjaden reported on Public Safety Day last Monday when 2,500 kids came out to climb on motorcycles, the state helicopter and other emergency response equipment. The Police Department also finger printed and photographed 52 children at the shopping center.

New Castle Police Officer Senior Corporal Tina M. Shughart reported working with the Goodwill Fire Department, Trustees and Lions Club to plan a field day for kids on June 21st in Battery Park. Activities will include sporting events and climbing on police and fire vehicles. A DJ will play music. The purpose is to interact with the kids, so the kids are comfortable interacting with police, fire and first responders. The program is geared to ages 3 to 12 with some older kids volunteering for community service hours. UD students will assist with games. The officer extended an invitation to Council and the Trustees to attend.

Councilperson Vannucci thanked the fire and police departments for their efforts to reach out to kids.

Council accepted the staff reports as presented.

City Administrator

Mr. Barthel asked to schedule the special council budget meetings on Thursday, June 19th at 6:30 pm and June 24th at 6:00 pm.

Council reports

Councilperson Megginson reported that he and City Administrator Barthel attended a meeting with DelDOT to discuss street construction on South Street. They reviewed how the contractors will leave the street in preparation for the Friday night Separation Day run. Construction on South Street is expected to be completed by the 1st of September.

Concrete was poured in front of Carrie Downie School and then torn out the next day because the school buses could not make the turn.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran reviewed the grant receipts for May 2014.

Communications

None

Business from the Floor

None

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese encouraged everyone to volunteer to assist with Separation Day. This is the 1st time for a two-day Separation Day celebration. Friday night activities include the race, music and craft beer tasting. Saturday night will be the traditional events including the best fireworks in the State.

Mr. Lank of the New Castle Jaycees brought flyers about Separation Day. He reviewed the events scheduled for Friday night and Saturday. Details are available on the web site. Local businesses have provided financial support that has allowed additional activities to be added.

Delaware Street will be shut down on Friday at noon in preparation for the race. Residents should get an entry permit to ease access to town.

The final act on Friday night is a local band by Jimmy Pritchard playing the Blues.

All proceeds from the 5K will go to the New Castle Historical Society.

Business from the Council President

President Ratchford thanked everyone for their good wishes and prayers in response to her husband being hospitalized. .

Old Business

None

New Business

Presentation by Rt. 9 Holdings LLC to introduce proposed apartment/retail mixed use development for property at 0 SS W. Seventh St. - tax parcel no.21-014.00-398.

The City Administrator met with the City Planner and the Building Official & Fire Marshall regarding a proposal from Rt. 9 Holdings LLC for a mixed use apartment building and retail space on W. 7th Street. They were invited to make an initial presentation of their plans.

Jeffrey Stapen of Stapen Construction Inc. presented drawings of the buildings and the planned location. The project will include 9000 feet of retail space on the first floor of the front building broken into 5 to 6 store fronts. The 120 apartments will be 2-bedroom units with 2 baths expected to rent for approximately \$2,000 per month. Parking will be provided below the units and all buildings will have elevators.

Construction is expected to take 2 to 3 years. The preference is to construct the front building along 7th Street first along with the building to the left.

Mr. Stapen was accompanied by Colm DeAscanis and Eileen Thorp of CDA Engineering, Inc.

First Reading of Ordinance 495 to amend Article 1 Section 230-1 of City Code regarding height restrictions in Downtown Gateway District.

President Ratchford read the ordinance.

President Ratchford announced that a 2nd reading and public hearing will be scheduled.

Comments from the floor.

None

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Petty, seconded by Councilperson Megginson and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Council met in Executive Session to discuss the FOP contract negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel
Clerk of the City of New Castle